

Challenges of Online Teaching in the Wake of Covid-19 Pandemic

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Schools and colleges have never been locked down nationwide in the past as it happened in present time due to deadly covid-19 pandemic. Under the circumstances, shifting from conventional instruction-based classroom teaching to online teaching is undoubtedly an obligation for teaching as well as learning. There are numerous online teaching technologies/software/apps such as Skype, Zoom, WebEx-Cisco and Google meet etc. to adopt while moving on this new path during the gigantic educational crisis but it is not so easy to be well accustomed with these in a short span of time.

My hands-on experience

With an intent to provide effective learning experiences to my students, I have included many online tools and applications in my teaching pedagogy like use of audio-video clips in lectures, giving weekly assignments online or sharing of lessons on WhatsApp groups, e-mails or google drive for self-learning. It is my firm belief that the present adverse situation has not only provided us with many innovative ideas but also provided opportunity to build our professional competencies on digital platform.

Students' feedback

The feedback was obtained from students

while attending their classes online and after classes on google feedback form about e-learning. As expected, a larger number of students believe that online classes are very enriching for them. With more convenient timings of the classes, absence of the need of travelling, freedom to sit in a more comfortable and homely environment, overall is a good experience. However, a few other students faced difficulty in using this digital platform due to lack of resources. Also some students are not enough competent to use e-learning technologies. Still majority of the students are satisfied with this new way of learning.

On the other hand, my experiences on using technology while teaching acclaim that:

- This crisis has brought all teachers together and they work as a team instead of individuals to provide students the best support system.
- Education is not only about classroom teaching but it also involves interactions, free flow of ideas, open discussions and mentoring of students; so ample opportunities are provided on digital platform by organising debates, discussions etc.
- With academic growth it is also important to take care of affective and psychomotor domain

therefore to connect emotionally with students along with digital connectivity, special weekly classes are organized for their well-being, where the students can discuss even about their anxiety and fear because of lockdown.

we expect to return back to the same buildings of school or colleges for real teaching learning experiences.

- To give students the feeling of a normal classroom, Socratic Method of dialogue should be used. Firstly, the content is explained for 15 to 20 minutes, followed by students' discussions and questions.
- Grounded on the student feedback and my own experiences as a teacher in using these technologies, I would like to make following observations reflecting challenges to the use of technology in our present education system.
- Students are from diverse economic background where every student does not have resources like laptop, tablet, Smartphone to attend online classes;
- Issues related to internet connectivity pose a hurdle in effective teaching;
- It is really a difficult task to keep students involved and keep a check on their distractions during teaching learning process; and
- Conducting internal assessment is another tedious task as students have to use their own devices and nobody is there to have an eye on them.

In a nutshell, although online classes are need of the hour, but replacing the traditional classroom teaching is next to impossible. Therefore, in future